Remarks

Claims 8-15 and 18-21 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention. Claims 8 -10, 15, 18 and 19 have been amended. Applicants do not understand the rejection of claims 20 and 21. IPv4 and IPv6 multicast routing protocol (MRP) messages and IPv4 and IPv6 group membership protocol (GMP) messages are terms commonly understood by one of ordinary skill in the art.

Claims 1, 6, 7, 11, 12, 15-18 and 21 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Venaas S., "An IPv4 – IPv6 multicast gateway", Internet Engineering Task Force Internet Draft: draft-venaas-mboned-v4v6mcastgw-00.txt, February 2003 (hereinafter "Venaas"). Applicants respectfully disagree.

Venaas discloses a multicast gateway solely to interface between an IPv4 and an IPv6 network, in order to enable an IPv6 host to receive from (and send to) any IPv4 multicast group. In summary, Venaas defines a method for binding any IPv4 multicast address to a corresponding IPv6 address, which will be used in the IPv6 domain to refer to the IPv4 multicast address. The proposed method in Venaas consists of forming the IPv6 multicast address (128 bits) by appending the IPv4 multicast address (32 bits) to a specific /96 prefix (96 bits). (See section 5.) Typically, an IPv6 host will join the IPv6 multicast address in the IPv6 domain in order to receive traffic sent to the corresponding IPv4 multicast address. The "IPv4-IPv6 multicast gateway" is defined as an extension of the IPv6 PIM-SM Rendez-Vous Point (RP) entity. Typically, the gateway is the PIM-SM RP for the specific /96 prefix in order to intercept any subscription request for IPv4 groups coming from IPv6 hosts. Upon receiving such a subscription request (typically through a PIM Join message) for a group G that matches the specific /96 prefix, the PIM-SM RP is extended so that it will use IGMP protocol to subscribe to the corresponding IPv4 group through its network interface attached to the IPv4-only network. When forwarding multicast packets from the IPv4 to the IPv6 network, the gateway needs to rewrite the source and destination addresses. The IPv6 destination address is set to the one corresponding to the IPv4 multicast address

that appears in the incoming packet. This IPv6 source address is set to one of the IPv6 address assigned to the gateway.

Thus, in Venaas, it can be seen that the translation is applied on the MRP message that is **received** by the gateway, on an "incoming interface". In contrast, in the claim 1 invention, the translation is applied on the MRP message that is **sent** by the gateway, on an "outgoing router interface". Thus, Applicants submit that Venaas does not disclose the distinguishing feature of the translation being applied on the MRP message that is sent by the gateway, on an "*outgoing router interface*".

In view of the foregoing remarks, Applicants submit that independent claim 1 is novel and non-obvious over Venaas. Applicants further submit that dependent claims 2, 4 and 5-21 are allowable by virtue of their dependency on claim 1. Applicants request the reconsideration and reexamination of this application and the timely allowance of the pending claims. Please charge any fees associated herewith, including extension of time fees, to 505278.

Respectfully submitted,
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